

VLADIMIR MAYAKOVSKY



**A BOOKFUL
OF
BEASTS**



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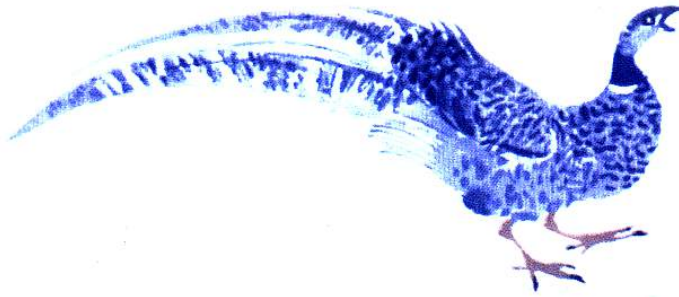
Illustrated by N. Charushin

Translated from the Russian by Avril Pyman

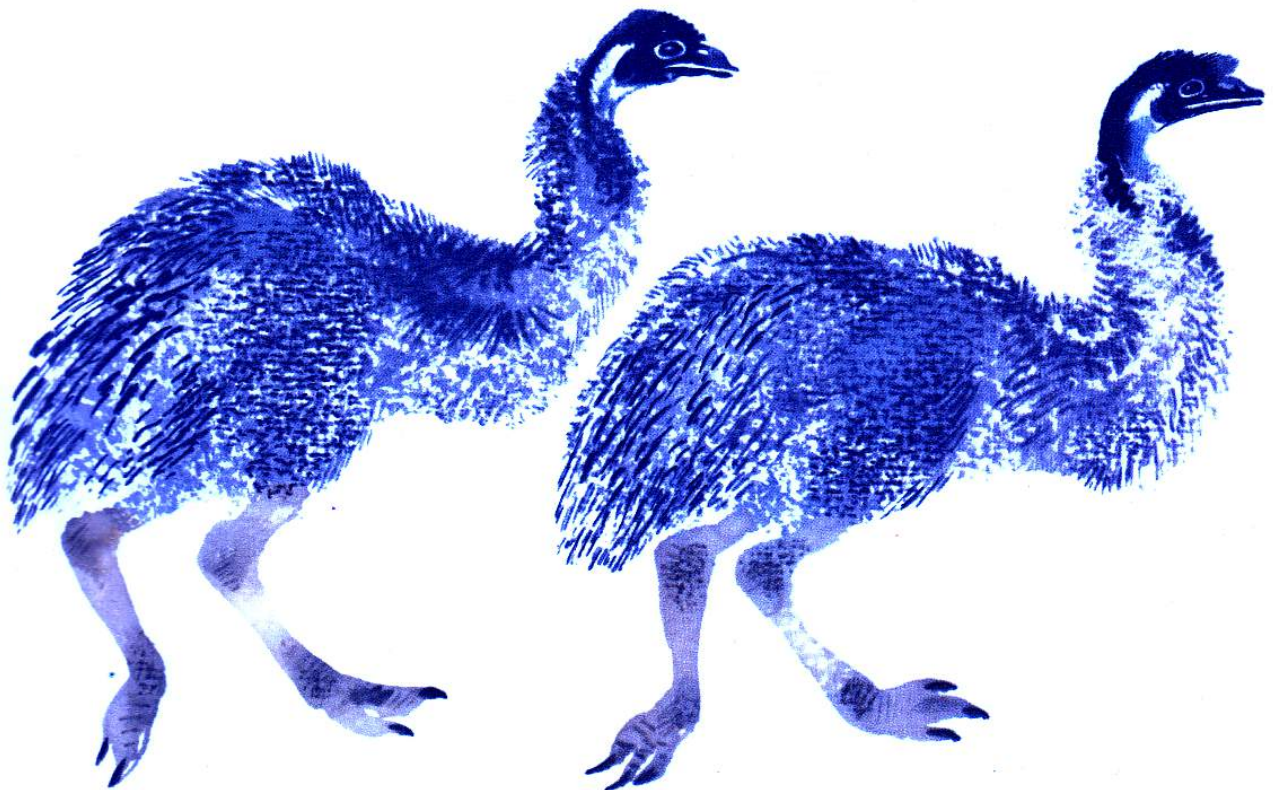


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Elephant, lion, kangaroo!
There's one on every page for you.





The lion is neither last nor least,
Come, take a good, hard look.
He is no longer
King of Beasts,
Just Chairman—in this book.

This animal is called the Lama
Lama-daughter,
Lama-Mama.



Two pelicans in mid-Atlantic
One very small—and one gigantic.





Here's the Zebra—at her nattiest!
Stripier than a garden-mattress.

Now straight into our book there pants
a family

of

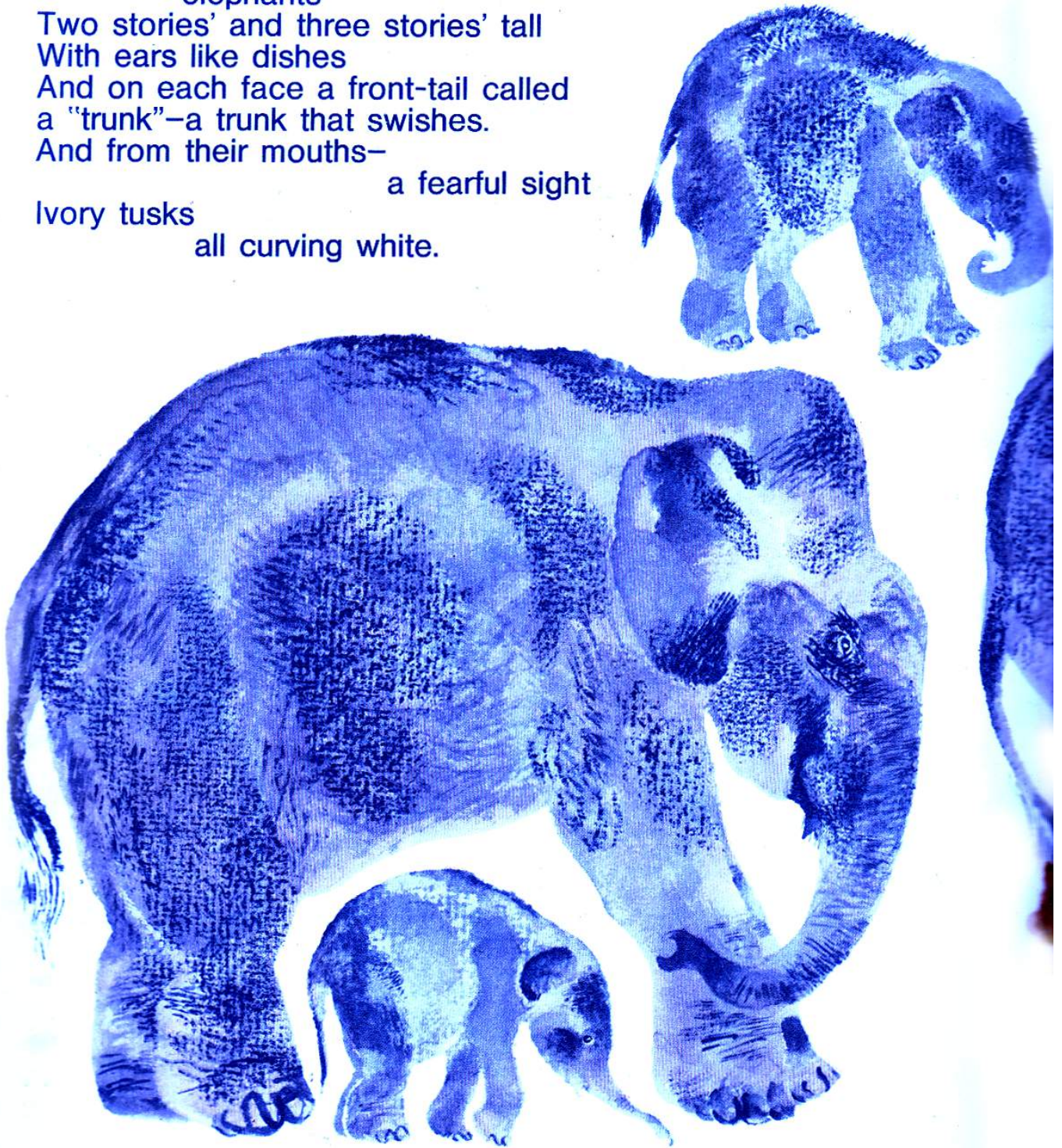
elephants

Two stories' and three stories' tall
With ears like dishes
And on each face a front-tail called
a "trunk"—a trunk that swishes.
And from their mouths—

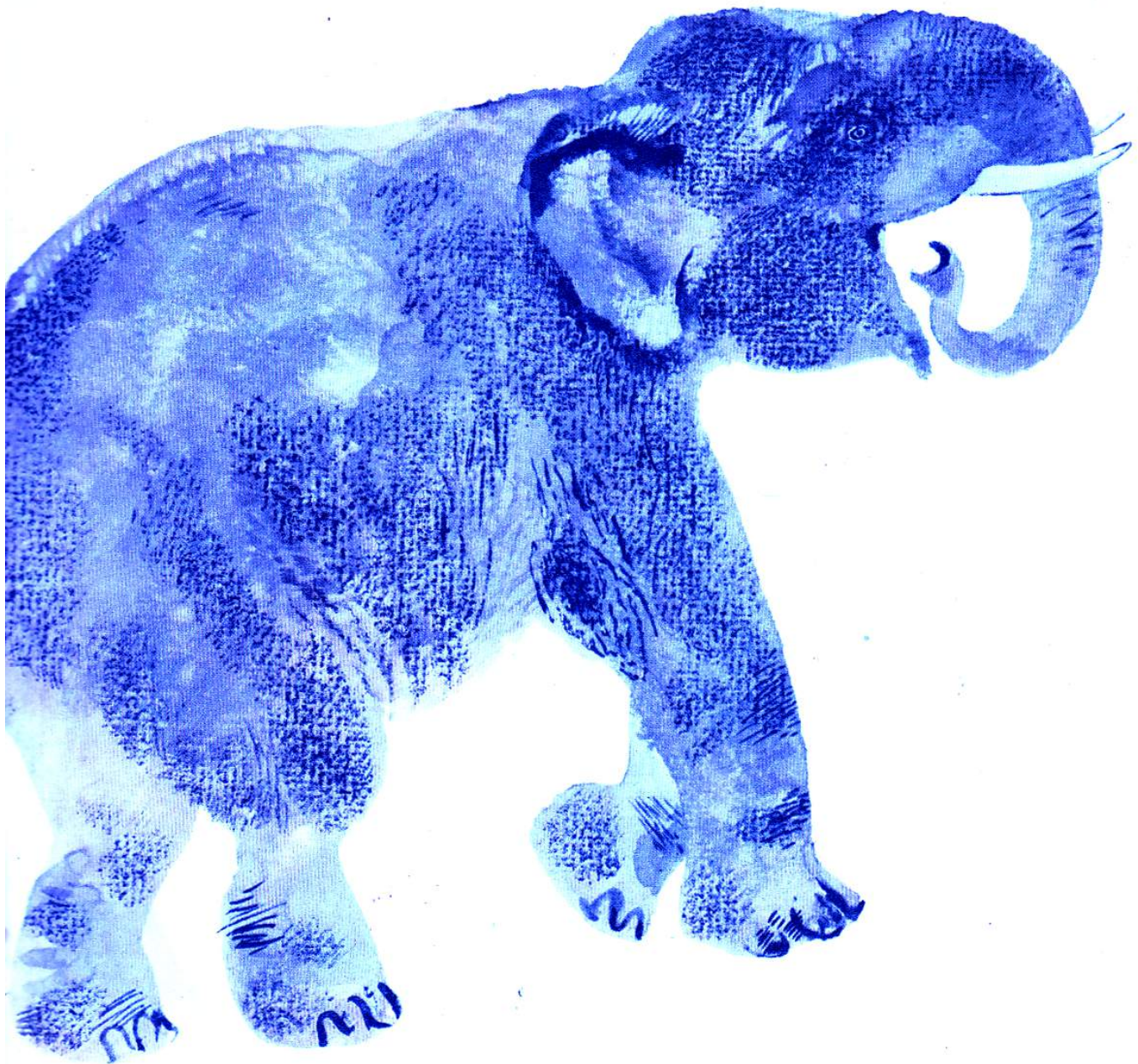
a fearful sight

Ivory tusks

all curving white.



How many new clothes they must need,
What lots to eat and drink!
Their baby grows at such a speed
He'll soon outgrow our Dad, I think.



Way, make way, an elephant
Needs room to wag his head!
A page is really much too cramped:
Give 'em a two-page spread!

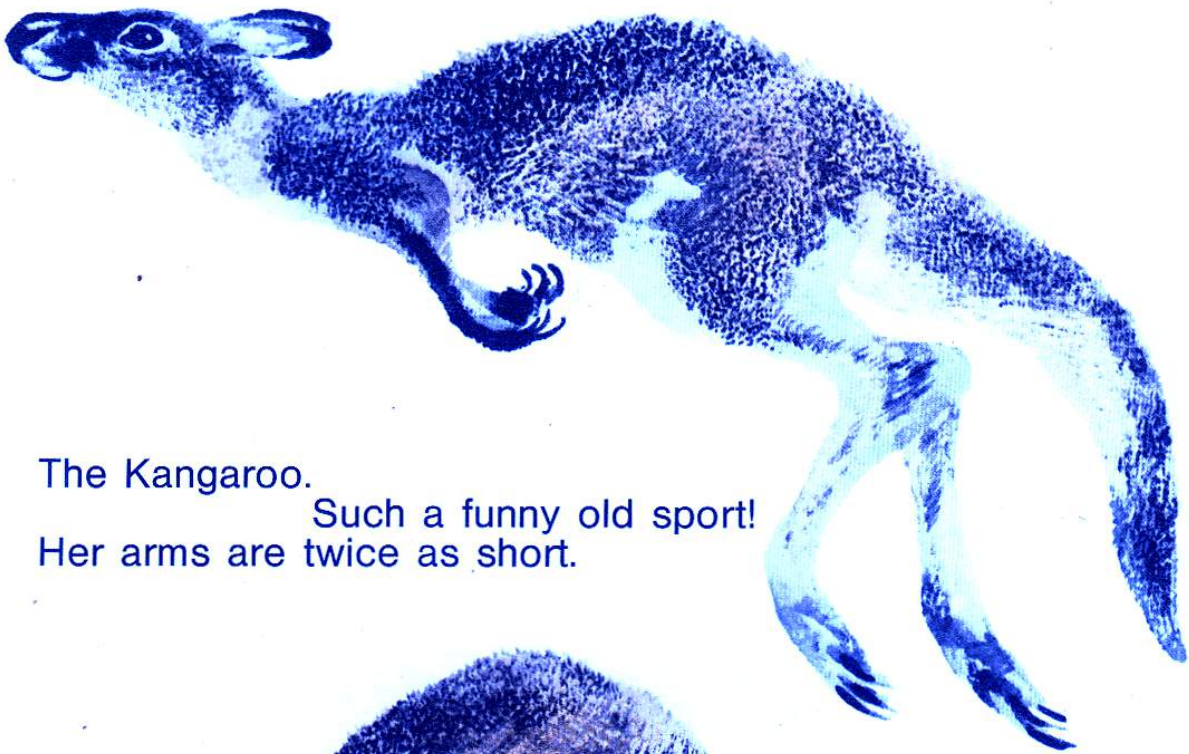
Crocodile! The children's dread!
Better not to tease him
He's skulking on the river-bed,
So no one ever sees him.



He lives amongst the desert sands
Eats nasty-tasting bushes, and,

A detailed illustration of a brown camel standing in a desert landscape. The camel is facing right, with its head turned slightly towards the viewer. It has a thick, shaggy brown coat and a large, dark hump on its back. The background shows a vast, flat desert with rolling sand dunes under a bright, hazy sky. The overall style is that of a classic children's book illustration.

A beast of burden,
strong
and sound,
Is hard at work the whole year round.



The Kangaroo.

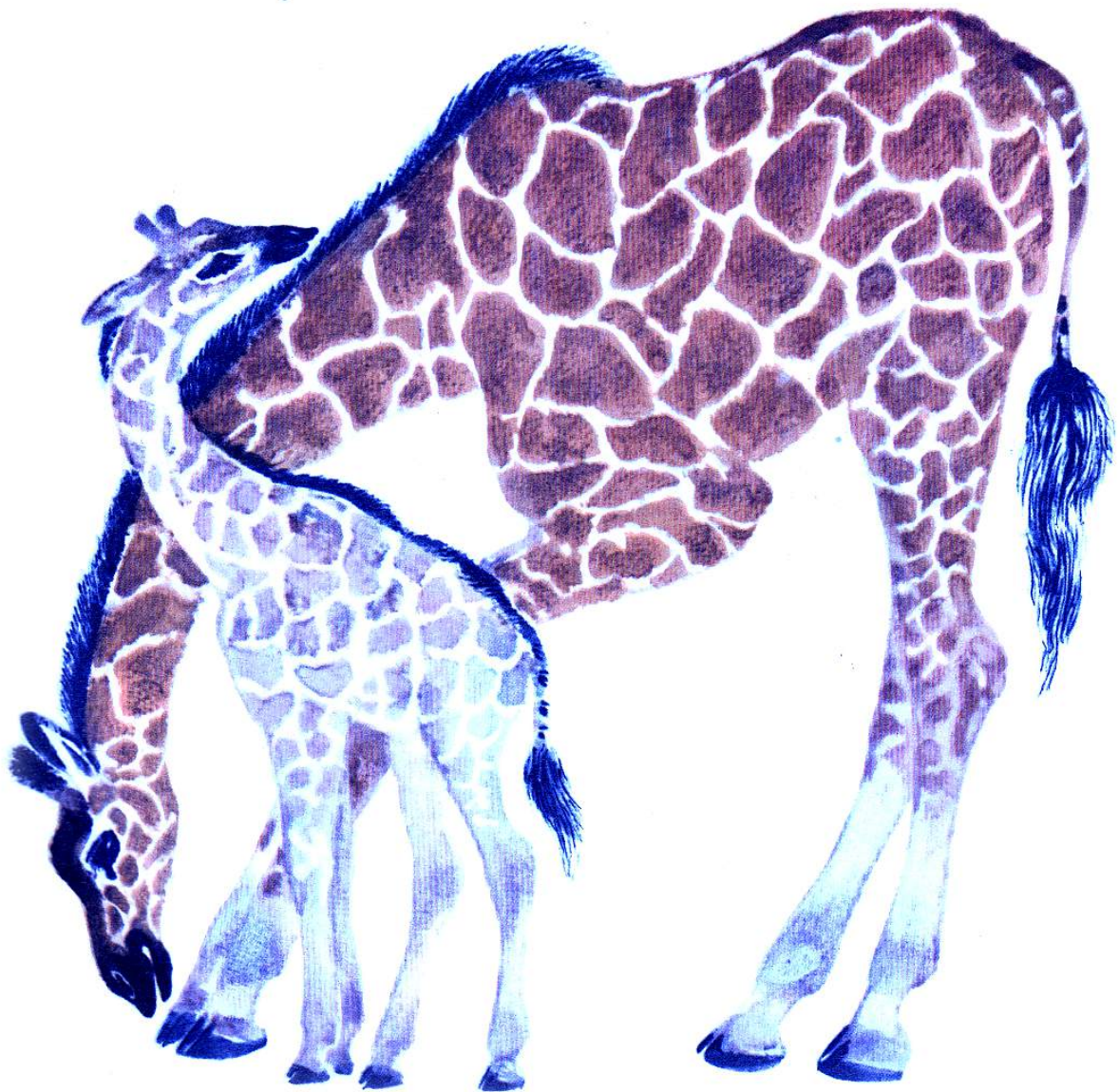
Such a funny old sport!
Her arms are twice as short.

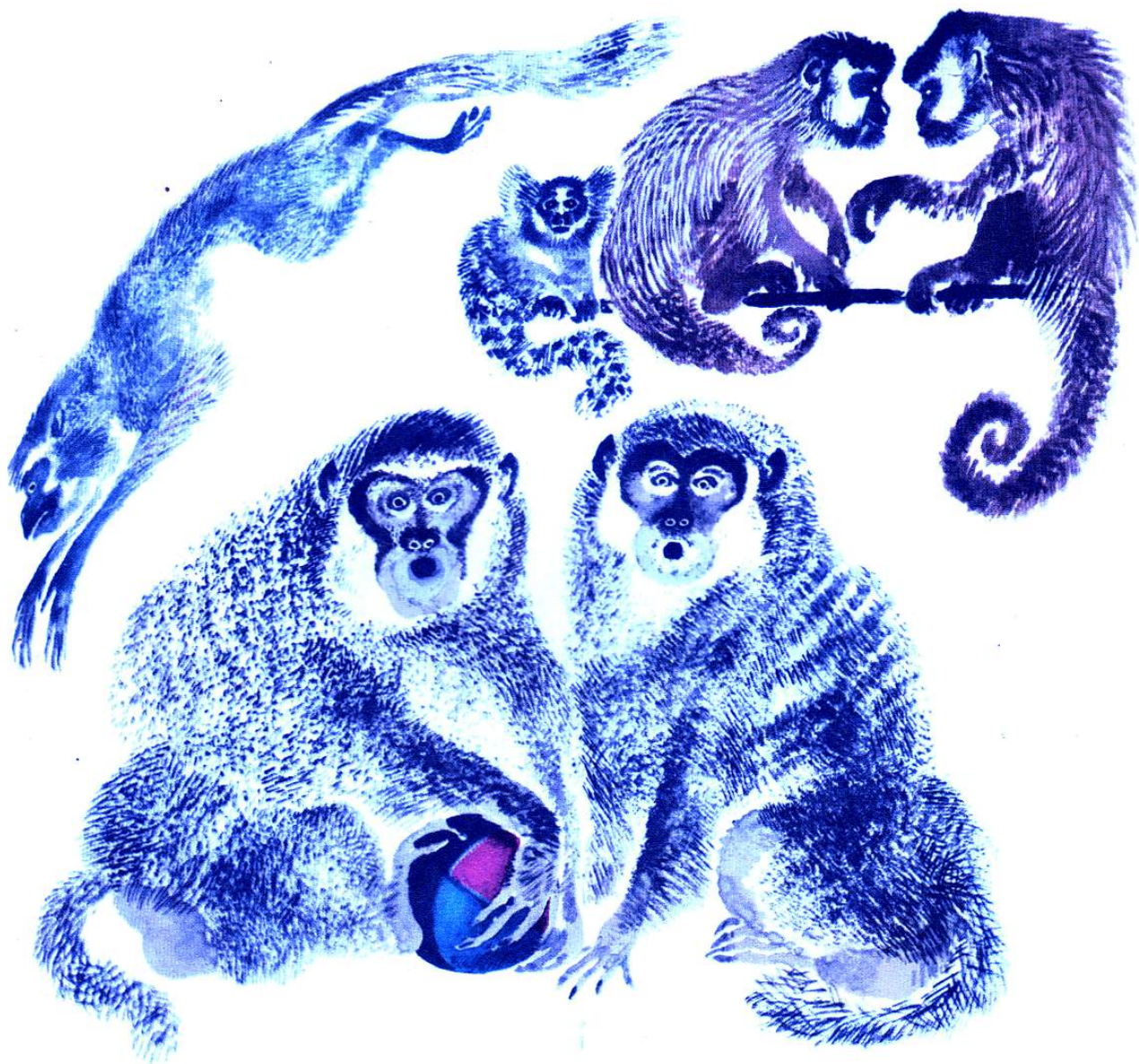


But, to make up,
her strong
Back legs are twice as long!

Father Giraffe
has a long neck
-it's
A problem to get him a collar that fits.

His children are lucky:
Mother Giraffe
Has plenty
of neck for
the cuddliest calf.

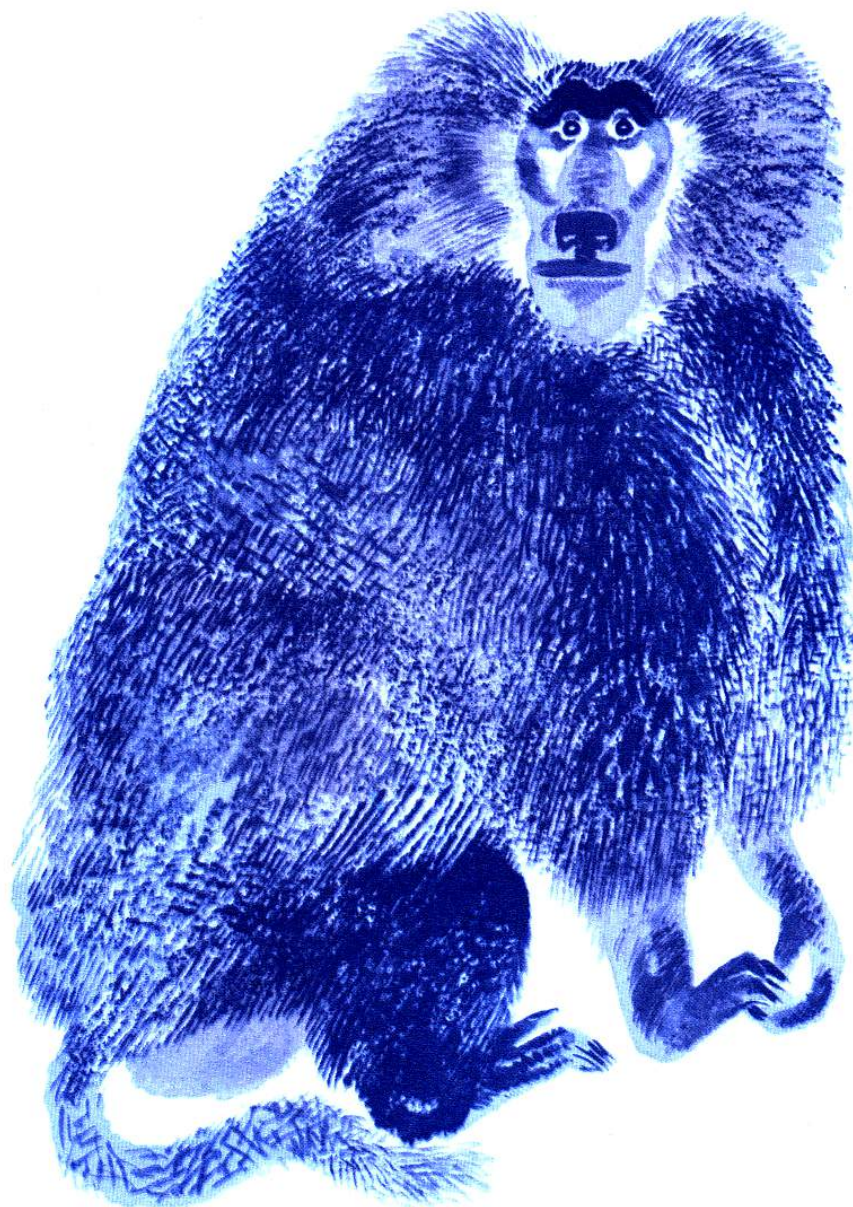


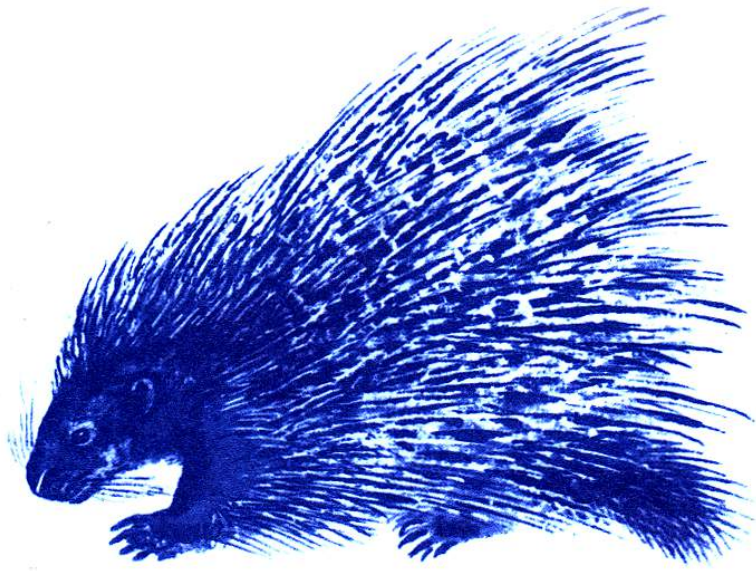


The monkey.

Funniest of the lot.
Sits like a statue, still as he can!
If not for that tail he's got,
He might be posing as a man!

In wintertime this beast feels blue
The poor beast's from the tropic zone.





But, now I've seen the lot of you.
Good bye, nice beasts—time I went home!

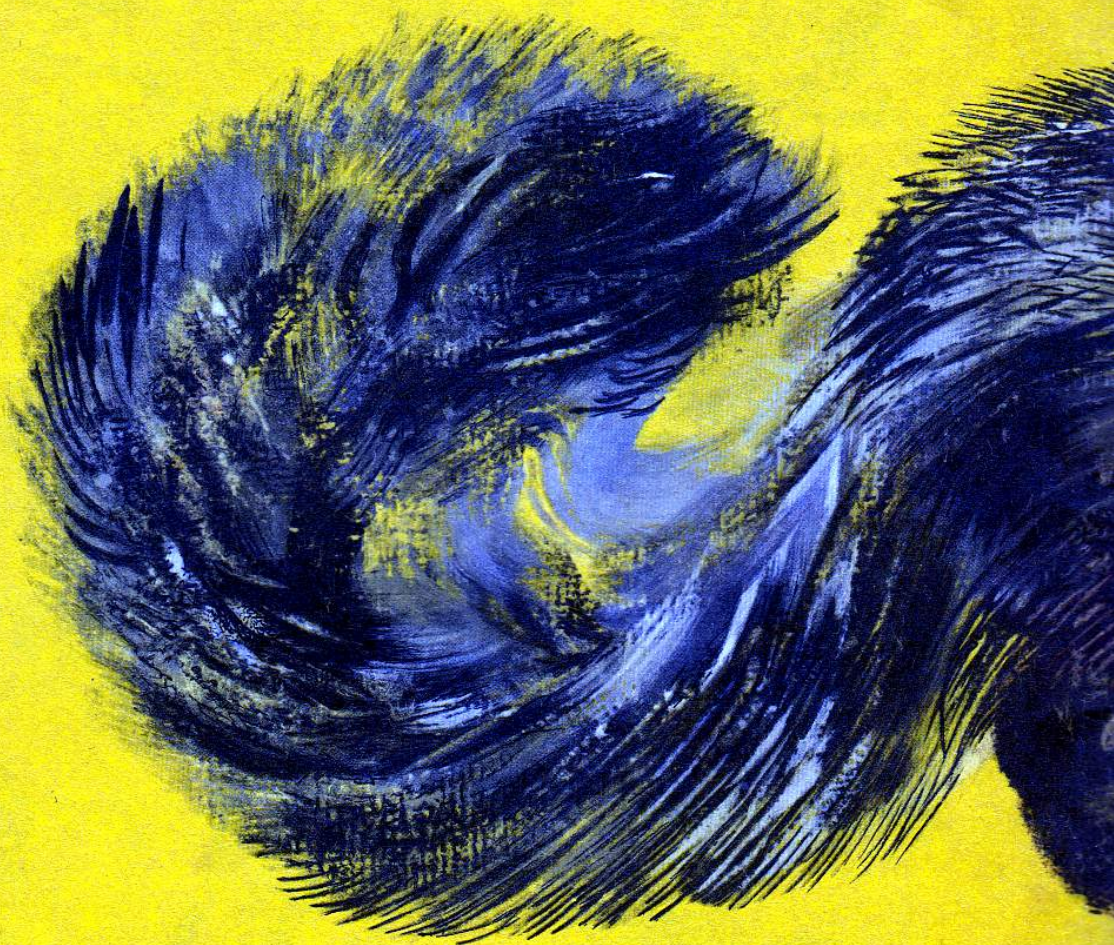




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В. Маяковский
Что ни страница, — то слон, то львица

На английском языке



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